

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 17, 1909, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Washington, D. C. March 17, 1909. My darling Alec:

Why don't you answer my telegrams at least. I think I never had a more demoralizing and aggravating one than your last "Chinese letter not enclosed, miss you awfully, love." Well I know already Chinese letter wasn't enclosed and didn't ask you to telegraph that, I presume you do miss me awfully and that you love me. But it doesn't answer my telegram, which I wouldn't have sent if I hadn't wanted a reply. How are you, no letters or bulletins. The chief trouble is that if I tried reading between the lines as you did with your Ontario dispatch I should assume it to mean that you were feeling especially blue and below par, and if Beinn Bhreagh were half as far away as it is I would be tempted to take the next train back. I would much rather have a straightforward telegram saying that you were not feeling well and wanted me to come right back to take care of you. Casey writes however that you seemed very well and I am not going to worry yet. But there is no reason why you shouldn't be well if you will only take care of yourself, and please, please feel that this is a thing you can do for your wife, and do it . Take your exercises all twenty of them regularly every morning and think of me when you do. I take mine and say How do you do to you every day,— I am very well.

I wish you would send me press copies of your dictations, so I may know what your experiments are and what you are thinking of. What do you think of the result of Douglas' flights. Is the moror 2 going to be reliable. If not won't you get another, even an automobile motor if that will carry the Silver Dart. I look upon it that the success of the Silver Dart means everything to us in the prestige it gives all our work. I've spent all the money and more than I can hope to get from my little property, still I do want you to go on and put

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more of your money into the venture so as to assure the success of the Silver Dart and it's purchase by governments. I'd a hundred times rather have Mr. Curtiss' motor succeed than any other, but still the first thing is the success of our Aerodrome. Nothing succeeds like success you know. Oh my darling I wish I were with you all, I grudge being away these last days of the A.E.A. I want to be with you all holding us all close and closer together, and making you feel that you have always behind you my love and my sympathy and my faith. We'll win out of course, it's only a question of time and though it seems so long to us, yet how short a time it is in the world's history, and your work is to endure so long as the world shall last. Because it is great, it cannot be done in a hurry.

Miss Waters, Mrs. Grosvenor's sister died yesterday morning. It is a great relief to them all as she has been so ill for a year now, with no real hope of improvement. I wonder how the poor lady herself felt about it. Since my own illness I have seen more of that side of the matter, got more inside the invalid's skin as it were. How much of nervous anxiety about herself has she undergone. How much did she herself want to live? Well since there was no hope it's better for her too that the suspense should be ended.

I wish Daisy's baby would come, I am getting nervous. Surely 3 the larger it grows the more difficult her labor will be. I have a good mind to go and interview her doctor, Brown Miller, who took care of her with Sandie. She is very well however, and very active.

Mr. Sanborn went out to see Miss Rinehart's school and came back enthusiastic, he says that is a phase of the work that appeals strongly to him. He says he always gets on with children.

Much love, Your Mabel.